

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action of September 8, 2005, the Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1, 5, and 8 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1, 5 and 8 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/768,069; objects to claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9-25 as allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims; and allows claims 26-29, 31, and 33-44. Claims 1-44 remain pending.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 26-29, 31, and 33-44 are allowable over the art of record and that claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9-25 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 5, and 8 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1, 5, and 8 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/768,069. While not concurring with the rejection, but to expedite prosecution, a terminal disclaimer has been filed concurrently with this response. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims 1, 5, and 8 based on the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting is respectfully requested.

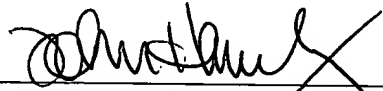
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY & SNYDER, L.L.P.

By:



John E. Harrity
Registration No. 43,367

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11350 Random Hills Road
Suite 600
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Telephone: (571) 432-0800
Facsimile: (571) 432-0808